

December 1st on Aruba

Fundacion E FARO together with Hairdressers commemorate World Aids Day



ORANJESTAD – “E Faro” is a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS and together with Hairdressers on Aruba they will commemorate World Aids Day next Tuesday. They are inviting everyone on the island to enjoy a free haircut between 6 and 9 PM. Three different locations are participating including: Cache Boutique - Ponton, Knipooq - Zuidstraat and Hairfashion Boutique - Wilhelminastr. Although the haircut is free, a donation box will be available for those who can financially



Tonight at Rumba Wine Bar & Grill

“Wine Tasting Menu” introduced tonight & tomorrow



ORANJESTAD – Friday and Saturday evenings Rumba Wine Bar & Grill Restaurant will be hosting a very special Wine Tasting Menu with six wines perfectly paired with a four course menu. The event will start at 7 pm with dinner at 7:30. The first course on the menu is a trilogy of Grilled Chorizo Cheese and Prosciutto

Ham accompanied by Navarro Correas Chardonnay, Argentina and Georges Duboeuf Beaujolais Nouveau, France. There is much more to enjoy, so come see the rest for your self. Rumba is located in the heart of Oranjestad just behind the Renaissance Mall on the corner near Benetton. □

support the cause.

On December first, the whole world will celebrate World Aids Day.

The theme chosen by the United Nations for this year is ‘Universal Access and Human Rights’ to emphasize the importance to work towards universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment

and care, recognizing these as fundamental human rights.

The goal is helping switch the negative approach towards HIV/AIDS infected persons, and as a first step, achieve a positive change of attitude in our community where we are able to show compassion, understanding and support. □



A multitude of blessings

Playa Linda “gives thanks” for its loyal, dedicated team of employees



PALM BEACH – This Thanksgiving, the Playa Linda Beach Resort is celebrating a multitude of blessings represented by the numerous employees marking a work anniversary this year. In what has become a yearly tradition, the resort celebrates the tremendous amount of talent of its long-time employees with a “thanksgiving” lunch.



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The lunch, held this year at Costa Linda's Elliott's Italian Restaurant, was particular poignant with a large number of employees marking milestone anniversaries, including five employees marking 20 years and one employee, Sybil Henriquez-John, having dedicated 25 years of service to the resort.

Throughout the year, employees who complete milestone anniversaries with the resort are provided the traditional envelop on the day of their original hire. However, also sharing an anniversary meal together has become an important, annual tradition.

This year's honorees who enjoyed special treatment included twenty-five year employee, Housekeeping's Sybil Henriquez-John. Marking twenty years with the resort are her fellow colleagues from Housekeeping, including Jolanda Roza, Mayra Ridderstaat, Filomena Maduro-Loopstok, Florencia Koolman and Patria Almanzar. With the resort for fifteen years is Cedric Paulina, from the Front Office, and with ten years, Johnny Silonero, from Maintenance, Santo Rodriguez, from Grounds, and Maria Matos with the Front Office. Five-year employees include: Loss & Prevention team members: Jhonattan Maduro, Rodolfo Cornes, Randy Orman and Celment Lampe; from the Maintenance Department: Pedro Partidas, Robert Luc Broekman and Nigaima Ascencion; from Grounds: Alexis Alfonso Ramirez-Lora and Adilsson Silva Do Nascimento; from Front Office: Juan Lopez; from Housekeeping: Marilyn Lopez-Krozendijk and Farah Rasmijn; and from Human Resources: Milda Ras.

As proven by its recent Thanksgiving, the Playa Linda Beach Resort certainly has reason to celebrate.

At the conclusion of a very enjoyable lunch, each employee marking an anniversary received a souvenir framed portrait and a crystal plaque, as well as the admiration of their fellow employees. □



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Now easily accessible via the company's website

PwC's Global Economic Crime Survey: "Economic crime in a downturn"



ORANJESTAD -- Based on interviews with 5,400+ companies in 40+ countries, PwC's Global Economic Crime Survey is the largest, most comprehensive international survey of economic crime worldwide.

According to this year's survey report, over 30 percent of respondents reported suffering one or more significant economic crimes during the past 12 months. The global recession was cited for heightened risk of fraud by 40 percent of all respondents who said that their organization faced greater risk of economic crime in the downturn.

Many respondents identified underlying business pressures related to the downturn as the motivation for rising fraud, citing difficulty in achieving business targets and fear of losing jobs.

The 5th biennial global economic crime survey is based on months of interviews, from July to November 2009.

Highlights of the survey indicate that despite the attention of regulators and companies' investment in controls, fraud remains one of the most problematic issues for companies around the world.

The actual level of economic crime and associated financial and non-financial losses has not decreased. Nearly one of two companies fell victim to economic crime in the last two years. The report finds that economic crime is intractable because of the many kinds of fraud and the broad range of employees, including senior executives, who commit them. It concludes that companies cannot rely on fraud controls alone to detect and deter economic crime. Companies need to build loyalty to the organization, give employees the confidence to do the right thing, and put

in place clear sanctions for those who commit fraud, regardless of their position in the company.

See the numbers, view all country reports at: <http://www.pwc.com>

Occupational fraud, the survey concludes, "occurs during both economic booms and busts; [but] . . . is more likely to be detected when prosperity withers and uncertainty thrives." □



Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day** prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
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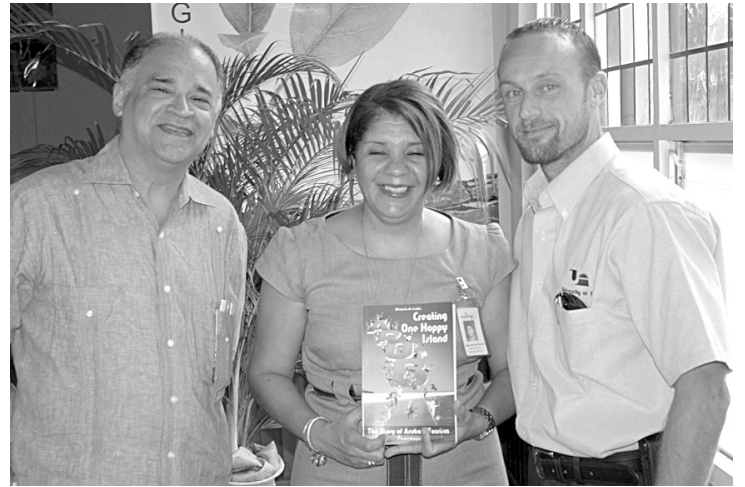
University students benefit from ATSA donation of books



ORANJESTAD - The story behind "Creating One Happy Island" is now at the disposal of University of Aruba students, thanks to a generous donation of books of the same title by the Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA). On hand to officially provide ATSA's donation of 80 books were ATSA President Jan van Nes and ATSA Secretary Aisa van der Biezen, who met with Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies

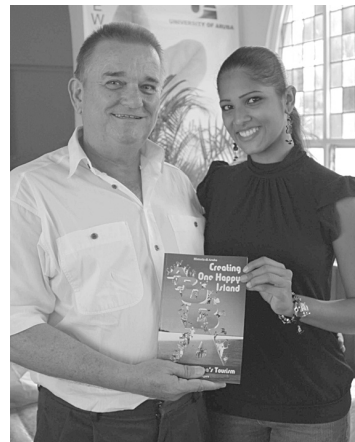
Dean Ryan Peterson, Freshman Class Representative Tracy Nicolaas as well as the book's author Evert Bongers. "The book is an important resource which ATSA views an excellent start in the documentation of the island's tourism history. As an association, we want to encourage the next generation to both cherish what has already been done as well as be inspired as to what they too can accomplish for

their island," explains ATSA President Jan van Nes. The ins and outs on how Aruba became known internationally as "One Happy Island" are outlined by author Evert Bongers, with an explanation of how it all began with the island's entry into tourism and its development through the decades as traced through profiles of some of the island's industry pioneers. Dean Ryan Peterson was grateful for the donation of



books as much as for the book itself. "A book that documents the island's tourism industry has been a long time in coming," he comments. "We look forward to offering the book to students, and in carrying forward with plans to incorporate it into the curriculum as required reading by next semester." Hospitality Studies Freshman Class representative Tracy Nicolaas symbolically accepted the book on behalf of all the university's students. Author Evert Bongers, whose tireless research efforts led to

the publication of the book, was pleased to learn it would become part of the curriculum. ATSA President Jan van Nes, who himself is featured in the book, discussing "Hospitality as a Vocation" and the importance of innovation, views both the book and its introduction to budding hospitality professionals as an important opportunity. "The next generation is responsible for starting new chapters in Aruba's tourism, made through contributions that will further add to Aruba's success story." □



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And the winners are..

Romar announces top sellers in Santa Margherita contest



PALM BEACH - At the end of a spectacular dinner at the Sunset Grill in the Radisson Resort, Romar Trading's Clive Faustin took the microphone to announce the recipients of a trophy for selling most Santa Margherita wines. The lovely Italian wines are the number one sellers of imported wines in the US, but Aruba is doing very well too, it seems.

Trophy recipients were Ling & Sons assistant manager Junior Webb, assistant F&B manager of the Hyatt Resort Carlotta Terzano,



Gianni's Nathalie Moone, Superfood Supermarket and the Radisson Resort's the Marriott Resort. They Ronnie Maduro and have been outstanding! □

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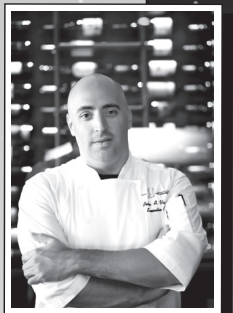
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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Physical Sensuality Is a Direct Line to Your Spirit

As part of the Great Transformation, we naturally become aware of ourselves as the Spirit that we are, playing in three dimensions through the Human Body Machine. We all feel Spirit's subtle tug throughout the day, even while we're immersed in three dimensional reaction.

The trick is to not get caught up in the physicality of things.

Be eternally grateful for what is around you, while you embrace the physical sensations you are immersed in. Now always remember that the physical sensations don't matter because three dimensional life is just an illusion.

When we know that the Hologram can end at any moment, we stop taking everything for granted. We naturally begin to embrace

every moment of our lives. We focus on the emotional and physical sensations coursing through our body. We take in our surroundings and briefly pause every moment in our lives before Time marches us on.

By becoming aware of the details of our physical surroundings, we become more present in every moment. In the moment of complete awareness, you become fully aligned with this Now moment. You are not torn and conflicted by regretting the past and fearing the future. This is the Zone where we become so engrossed in something, nothing else exists, including Time. We thrive in this moment because we allow our Spirit to come through.

When you are fully engrossed in the Now moment, you directly connect with your Spirit. With a direct connection, you will be able to hear your Spirit's subtle guidance.

We find our Spirit not by renouncing the physical, but by embracing it. While quiet and stillness help us to hear our Spirit's subtle message, it is equally important to experience our hologram. A celebration is no time to be somber, and being in a Human Body is no time to ignore the world in which we live.

Every moment in three dimensions is as precious as it is fleeting. Don't waste another moment in blind reaction.

Stop associating the word 'sensuality' with sex. Sex can be a huge part of Sensuality, but immersing your physical body in the three dimensional illusion is the point, and we all know how easy it is to get lost in the hologram.

Sensuality refers to the five senses, the Spirit's interface with three dimensional illusion. When we become fully sensual, we become immersed in illusion and directly connected to our Spirit.

When you become immersed in a physical moment, you align with your Spirit. When you are aligned with your Spirit, you are in Unity Consciousness.

In Unity Consciousness, you are truly the Master of your three dimensional Domain.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought.

HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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KLM Tests a Biofuel Made From Weeds



A farmer opens a camelina seedpod in Gillette, Wyo.

By DAN SALTZSTEIN

With airline passengers getting increasingly concerned about their carbon footprint, the Dutch airline KLM has turned to oil made from the seeds of the camelina plant. On Monday, a KLM Boeing 747 that was partly fueled by camelina oil flew over the Netherlands in a test flight with about 40 passengers aboard.

Airlines have been searching for alternatives to conventional jet fuel. Last January, Continental used a combination of algae and jatropha, a tropical shrub, on a short flight. And Japan Airlines tested a camelina mixture earlier this year. Camelina is often found as a weed in flax fields. Advocates tout it as a so-called drop-in fuel —

meaning neither the engine nor the aircraft needs to be modified to use it — and it does not interfere with normal crop growth. During the KLM flight, a mix of camelina and traditional fuel powered one of the plane's four engines. The company said it hopes to adapt the technology for commercial flights within a couple of years. □

IDI NV welcomes new general manager Reynald Geerman



ORANJESTAD – IDI NV, dedicated to construction and renovations, both industrial and commercial is proud to announce that Reynald Geerman just joined its ranks as General Manager.

Geerman brings with him rich and varied professional experiences built on a solid educational foundation, in construction, logistics and human resources.

IDI NV's core business is the proper and guaranteed installation of aluminum windows and doors, storefronts & glass, as well as project management and general constructions.

Pictured here IDI NV welcomes Reynald Geerman. □



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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one glance what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of **partying** on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.



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La Cabana Honors its Top Performers



EAGLE BEACH – Associates who distinguished themselves during the last trimester of 2009 were honored at a luncheon at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club. Catherine Martinez,



Recreation, Giovanni Britten, Accounting, Linda Mitchell, PBX, and Rafael Marquez, Housekeeping, received top honors for their performance at work over the past four months. Glenda Brokke, PBX, distinguished herself among supervisors and the Security Team rose above the rest, as team of the trimester.



La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club also acknowledged long term careers of its associates conducting an informal 10th and a 15th anniversary celebration for Maritza Nunez, and Aristobulo Montoya, concluding a decade and Maria Maduro, Desiree Henriquez, Carlos Ramirez, Luis M. Gutierrez and



Alfredo Lispier who gave 15 years of professional excellence to the company. Pictured here general manager Joe Najjar and his resort associates enjoying lunch at the Captain's Table. □



Renaissance appreciates its long-term employees



ORANJESTAD – At an informal appreciation get-together at the Renaissance Convention Center master of ceremonies Queta Werleman, acknowledged long term career commitments celebrated during the second and third quarter of 2009. Celebrating five years with the Renaissance in the second quarter: Italo Mujica, Aquarius; Francisco Tromp, Activities; Johannes Arrindell, Engineering; Karel Dirksen, Surveillance; Rufat Geerman, RCC; Joseph

Ray, Engineering; Jose Zarraga, Engineering; John Grigg, Executive Office; Rebecca Verschoor, Sales & Marketing and Mayra Kransen, D.T.S. Celebrating ten years with the Renaissance in the second quarter: Leonardo Garcia, Engineering; Judith Bruges, Housekeeping; Julio Congo, Engineering; Fermin Espejo, Engineering and Roberto Ramirez, Renaissance Island. Celebrating 15 years with the Renaissance in the second quarter: Flor Wernet, Kitchen;

Pedro Sabogal, Landscaping and Orswald Wilson, Surveillance. Celebrating five years with the Crystal & Seaport Casinos in the second quarter: Angelo Maduro, Crystal Operation; Veronica Juliana, Seaport Operation; Michella Ras, Crystal Cage; Otilio Kock, Seaport F&B and Luz Stella Buritica, Crystal Beverage. Celebrating ten years with the Crystal & Seaport Casinos in the second quarter: Larry Roa, Crystal Operation; Romar Peterson, Crystal Dealer and Nicolina Eckmeyer, Seaport Cleaning. Celebrating fifteen years with the Crystal & Seaport Casinos in the second quarter: Albert Henriquez, Crystal A&G Dept. Celebrating five years with the Renaissance in the third quarter: Marianelia Baptista, Papagayo Restaurant; Sidney Monticeux, L.G.Smith's; Andrey Mokryak, L.G.Smith's; Maria Orman,



DTS; Gloria Meneces, Aquarius; Carmen Palomino, Main Kitchen; Ursula Philipps, Okeanos; Alwin Golding, Accounting and Yoleida Hirschfeld, Papagayo Restaurant. Celebrating ten years with the Renaissance in the third quarter: Eldon Tarr, Engineering and Jolette Sint Jago, HSK. Celebrating twenty years with the Renaissance in the third quarter: Urdelico Herman, Executive Office. Celebrating five years with the Crystal & Seaport Casino in the third quarter: Bernardino Vrolijk, Cage. Celebrating fifteen years with the

Crystal & Seaport Casino in the third quarter: Remigio Maduro, Operation; Thomas F. Dania, Host Attendant and Francisco Ras, Operation. Celebrating twenty years with the Crystal & Seaport Casino in the third quarter: Walter Theysen, General Manager and Edgard Roos, Assistance General Manager. Seen here General Manager Paul Gielen, and Assistant General Manager Crystal & Seaport Casinos Edgard Roos, with second & third quarter anniversary honorees during the appreciation ceremony. □

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BES islands to switch to US dollar January 2011

THE HAGUE--The US dollar will be introduced in the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba on January 1, 2011 and not on October 10, 2010, Dutch Finance Minister Wouter Bos informed the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber on Monday.

In the middle of a calendar year, October 2010 was a "less suitable date" to introduce the US dollar because it would increase the social cost of such an action, he said. "That is why it was decided not to introduce the dollar on the transition date, but to stick to the Dutch practice of preset change moments on the more suitable date of January 1, 2011."

Postponement of the introduction of the US dollar forced Bos to arrange a transition for the period October 10, 2010 to January 1, 2011 in the draft BES Monetary System Law. The draft law submitted to the Second Chamber for approval contains the condition that the Antillean guilder remains the

official currency until January 1, 2011. Measures will be taken to guard against attempts to abuse the dollar's introduction by raising consumer prices or laundering money.

In the Explanatory Note, Minister Bos said it would have been more logical to introduce the euro instead of the dollar, because the islands will become part of the Dutch Constellation, but he had listened to the BES islands' wishes to have the Antillean guilder replaced by the dollar. "Representatives of the BES islands have indicated several times that the euro is not an acceptable option. The bad economic situations in Guadeloupe and French St. Martin (high unemployment and low economic growth) are partly to blame for the unpopularity of the euro in the BES islands," he explained.

The new currency law will replace two existing federal ordinances: the Central Bank Charter, which authorises the Bank of the Netherlands Antilles to issue bank notes,

and the Netherlands Antilles Currency Arrangement System, which regulates coin money on the islands.

The BES Monetary System Law will not contain provisions on the issuance of bank notes and coin money because the BES islands will join the monetary system of the United States.

The monetary law will not provide for a Central Bank either, because the islands as public entities of the Netherlands won't have their own Central Bank.

The Dutch Central Bank DNB will have a supportive task where it comes to the monetary aspects of the BES islands, and will assist in the introduction of the dollar. DNB will be in charge of promoting a good monetary system and it will also have a coordinating role in screening possible counterfeit money. In addition, DNB will have certain supervisory tasks regarding financial institutions.

Price changes will be monitored after the introduction of

the dollar in the islands. "Unnecessary price hikes as a result of the introduction of the dollar have to be prevented. Extra caution is especially necessary in sectors where there's limited competition," stated Minister Bos.

The exchange rate at the moment of switching to the dollar will be NAf. 1.79 to US \$1, which has been the official exchange rate since 1971. In the first month after the introduction of the dollar, citizens and companies will

still be able to use the Antillean guilder. Payments via the bank will automatically be in dollars as of January 1, 2011.

Residents of the public entities will be able to exchange Antillean guilders for a limited period after the dollar's introduction.

Special attention will be given to preventing money laundering.

Financial transactions between the Dutch Government and the public entities will be in US dollars. □

Plenary debate on Antilles cancelled

THE HAGUE--A plenary debate on the constitutional process of the Netherlands Antilles in the Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber was cancelled Wednesday because Member of Parliament (MP) Hero Brinkman of the Party for Freedom PVV, who had requested the meeting, was late.

Acting Chairman Eelke van der Veen opened the debate and immediately proceeded to close it because Brinkman was absent. Brinkman had announced earlier that he planned to present a motion to defer the constitutional process until after the Bonaire referendum.

The MPs who were present, Bas Jan van Bochove of the Christian Democratic Party CDA, Johan Remkes of the liberal

democratic VVD party, Ronald van Raak of the Socialist Party SP and John Leerdam of the Labour Party PvdA, were not happy about Brinkman's absence, and announced that they would leave and would not return if he were to show up later. State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten stayed on. Brinkman arrived a few minutes later, but by then, his colleagues had left.

Brinkman explained that he was late because his new secretary didn't know the exact meeting procedures. The MP didn't appear too moved by the Chairman's decision. "I will simply submit my motions during the handling of the Kingdom Relations budget," he said. □

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Sessions started to set up SER

PHILIPSBURG--The first of four sessions to establish a Social Economic Council SER for Country St. Maarten began with social partners and government sharing ideas and suggestions in the UTS Training Centre Thursday.

The SER will be the main advisory body to government on its policies and their effects on the community. The sessions are facilitated by former Netherlands Antilles SER director Glen Camellia.

Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin told the social partners that St. Maarten was at a "great disadvantage," compared to Curaçao and the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, in setting up its infrastructure for country status.

Curaçao will inherit the existing structure of the Central Government, while the BES islands will be administered by the Dutch Government.

St. Maarten had set up its own SER in the past, but for various reasons it

had never functioned. At this point, a properly functioning SER is very important to the new country.

Marlin said that the SER would "strengthen our democracy and be part of our law-making process," because it would give advice on new laws and amendments to existing ones. It's government's responsibility to send draft proposals to the Social Economic Council, which also has its duty in the law-making process, he added, "not to play games with, not to delay, but as responsible social partners to render advice that government has to take seriously."

The new SER will have a "mock" session in January, when it will be given a piece of legislation to formulate advice about, based on the parameters set in the four sessions that started Thursday.

A proper secretariat where the SER can do its work also has to be arranged for St. Maarten. "If we do not have a proper secretariat or proper bureau to manage the SER, all you will get

is government sending a piece of legislation. The people representing the social partners [will] come together to talk and discuss. They [will] launch different ideas, then everyone [will go] home, [and then] the information [will be] left floating somewhere out there."

Island Secretariat Bureau Chief Gracita Arrindell said at the opening that the social partners' participation would be paramount in the SER's establishment.

Chamber of Commerce vice-president and Antillean SER member Ludwig Ouenniche said the council was the second-most important one after the Advisory Council.

The SER must carry out its tasks "completely independently and free from any and all political influence. Financial support [from government] should at no time be perceived as a tool to diminish the important weight and punctuality of the council's advice," he said.

Entourage of 60 present to cheer Nicole in 'Fela!'

NEW YORK--Nicole de Weever is now not only a Broadway sensation, but also a sensation with her own entourage. Approximately 60 people were on hand to cheer on St. Maarten's own for the opening night of the musical "Fela!"

The strong supporting cast not only came from St. Maarten, but travelled from Amsterdam, Maryland, Miami and New York to witness Nicole as part of an ensemble production.

Included in the group were her parents Wilford and Beatrice de Weever, her sister Angelique de Weever, long-time friend Erika Cannegieter and other family members and well-wishers. Following her performance, an after party was held in her honour.

"I felt extremely blessed, excited and supported by my amazing friends and family from St. Maarten who came out en masse to support me," Nicole said. "I felt like I wasn't only representing myself on stage but I was representing my entire island," she added.

"Nicole did a fabulous job," Erika Cannegieter said. "Fela!" is an extraordinary Broadway production and Nicole has earned her right on that stage. She has come a long way in her career and we are all very proud of her," she added.

The new musical based on the life and music of groundbreaking African composer, performer and activist Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, opened to mostly rave, sometimes mixed reviews from Variety Magazine, the New York Post, New York Times and many other reputable publications.

Red carpet celebrities included producers Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, Will and Jada Smith, along with Harry Belafonte, Ben Stiller and more. "Fela!" is on an extended run on Broadway.

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Fight AIDS not people living with AIDS

Violent crime is a native Dutch problem too

Crime committed by ethnic minorities is getting all the attention, at the expense of crime committed by native Dutch.

By Thaddeus Müller

Since the late 1990s criminality among ethnic minorities or 'allochtonen' has been at the centre of the public debate in the Netherlands. A majority of native Dutch people feel the Netherlands have become an unsafer place, and link this with the presence of immigrant youth on the streets. Journalists, politicians and researchers routinely confirm each other's convictions about the seriousness of this problem.

By contrast, crime committed by native Dutch (autochtonen) hardly gets any attention at all. Unjustly so, because native Dutch people commit crimes too – it's just that this doesn't quite fit the self-image of native Dutch people, or the negative view they have of Muslims and ethnic minorities in general. The statistics, however, don't lie: of the 212,000 suspects arrested in 2005 63 percent was native Dutch. (Non-Western immigrants account for 11 percent of the Dutch population.)

An as yet unpublished study by Utrecht University confirms that native Dutch crime is a serious problem. Young native Dutch delinquents in Utrecht are more likely to be repeat offenders than those of ethnic minorities in the city.

Another study by the urban research institute Nicis, Moroccan juvenile delinquents: a class apart?, compared Moroccan-Dutch and native Dutch juvenile delinquents between the ages of 13 and 18.

Dutch delinquents scored much higher on violent crime, sex crimes and arson.

Other sources too suggest that native Dutch are responsible for a major part of violent crime. The rise in violent crime around Amsterdam's entertainment area's Leidseplein and Rembrandtplein in the past decade is largely the work of native Dutch people, the research institute COT found, as is violence against police officers in nightlife areas, according to a study by the Free University Amsterdam.

The police academy did its own research into violent crime during new year's eve 2007-2008, when 46 million euros worth of damage was done to cars, schools, homes and government property. It found that 78 percent of the perpetrators were native Dutch. It also found that more government property was damaged in villages in the Dutch 'Bible Belt' than anywhere else. Research by a local paper, Reformatorisch Dagblad, confirmed the police academy's findings.

Last summer's beach party at Hoek van Holland was another tragic low of native Dutch violence. (One person was killed when police opened fire on the unruly crowd.) Interestingly, the first reports about the Hoek van Holland incident mistakenly said ethnic minorities were involved.

A recent example of native Dutch violence is the killing of 14-year-old Dirk Post in Urk, in which

the three suspects are all teenagers from the same village.

It is noteworthy that in news reports the ethnic background of violent offenders is almost never mentioned if they are native Dutch. Neither is 'Dutch culture' blamed to explain the reasons for the violence, as is often done in the case of young Moroccan or Antillean offenders. An exception as the report by NRC Handelsblad about the Hoek van Holland incident, which exposed a culture of alcohol, drugs, violence, football, dance parties and complete abandon.

The truth is there is much we don't know about the world of violent native Dutch youngsters, who will beat someone to within an inch of their life "just for kicks". Researchers in the 1990s have referred to it as 'recreational violence'.

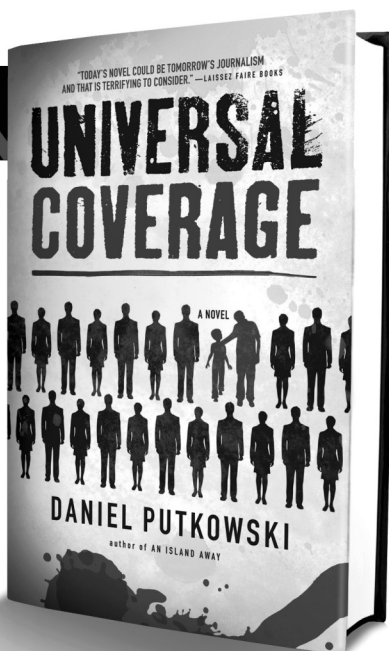
The last few years we have been obsessed with young criminals from the Moroccan and Antillean communities.

It is high time to broaden our perspective. The criminal behaviour of native Dutch deserves the attention of politicians, journalists, policy makers and researchers. It might lead to a more qualified picture of our society, one in which there is more room for self-criticism and less for complacency.

Thaddeus Müller is on the staff of the criminology section at Erasmus University's law department. □

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Dart 18 Worlds 2009

British duo break French domination



Finally, the British duo David Lloyd and Joanna Jones-Pierce broke the French domination at the Dart 18 Worlds 2009 in Aruba. They managed to steal one bullet from the leaders Emmanuel Dodé and Fred Moreau.

The three scheduled races could be sailed in a building breeze, starting with about 20 knots in the morning. At the first start in the afternoon, a shower with gale-force winds hit the open class of the Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta. The runners-up John Moret and Paul Smissaert pitch poled and destroyed their F18 mainsail. The competition in the Dart 18 fleet was full on, with the Swiss team Heynisch/Gysi as newcomer to the top five. The podium positions changed in both classes.

Today's first race showed an interesting line-up for the start. The Dutchmen Goudriaan/Damen chose for the pin-end, whereas the Atol Sailing Team Dodé/Moreau crossed the line in the middle and Lloyd/Jones-Pierce at the committee boat. Thierry and Christine Wibaux

(FRA) were struck with bad luck, as their mainsail hook came off minutes after the gun. They had to fix it on the beach. The French title defenders and the Dutchmen went into the left corner and took a clear lead at the top mark, with Dodé and Moreau in a comfortable first position. Both frontrunners hang on to their position till the finish, but there was a strong battle for the third place. Werner Heynisch and Markus Gysi from Switzerland sailed in third position, until Nicolette van Gorp and Ruud van Gisbergen (NED) overtook them in the second beat. Van Gorp: 'We went through the middle, which paid. But we lost our place to the Germans, by going to the left in the last upwind. The gusts were troubling us.' That is how Matthias Huber and Dominik Volke finished third.

In the first race after the lunch, the heat was full on. Dodé and Moreau thought they were early over the line and went back for a re-start. Lloyd and Jones-Pierce took advantage of the situation and were first



around the top mark. Lloyd: 'We were fired up after such a bad race this morning.' The British duo finished ninth. 'The Swiss gave us a good battle. They caught us on a gust downwind and on the second run Emmanuel had a massive comeback.' Moreau explains: 'We had to attack, so we tried to play the shifts and gusts.' This time, it was good enough for a second place, after Lloyd and Jones-Pierce. Lloyd: 'At least, we have saved the British record of Gereth Owen this week. He became the 1998 Dart 18 World Champion by winning every race.' Huber and Volke finished third.

Although Dodé and Moreau re-installed their tradition of taking bullets in today's last race, it wasn't an easy win.

They were first round the top mark, but with Huber/Volke directly in their wake. Dodé: 'We had a great battle with Matthias and Dominik. Our upwind speed is a bit better and they are a little quicker downwind.' Huber comments: 'We even overtook him at one point, but they are pointing higher and the crew is working the mainsheet on every wave. They sail perfectly.' The Germans climbed to a third place on the overall leader board. Thierry and Christine Wibaux dropped to the seventh position, as they pitch poled close to the last gate.

It was a busy time for the rescue boats of the Aruba Watersports Center, as many boats capsized and several helmsmen fell overboard and had to be picked up.

Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta

'I have never ever started with 40 knots breeze', said Xander Pols on the beach. Just before the first race in the afternoon, a squall with gale force winds came over. John Moret and Paul Smissaert tried to bear away for the line, but pitch poled merciless. That was



already the second unfortunate moment for the Dutch F18 sailors on this fourth day. Their mainsail came undone in the morning, so they missed the first gun and fought back to a sixth position. But the second time of bad luck put an end to today's racing, as they fell through the mainsail and they struggled to get the boat upright again. Leo Ambtman and Maarten Kroon (NED) sailed their Tornado well and overtook the second position overall.

Although the Pols brothers won every race, there were also some surprises on the course. The Dutch F18 sailors Willie van der Heijden and Arthur Moerman finished second and third in the afternoon. And the mixed Aruban/Dutch team of Friso Bakker and Henk Hankarth was first over the line in the morning. Bakker with a smile: 'We finished ahead of Xander, which is a legendary moment.' They are sailing a Dart 18 and have to do one lap less. Bakker: 'We were too late with entering the Worlds. That is why we

are participating at the Aruba Regatta, but we are enjoying it very much.'

After a day full of action, the participants and their families are welcomed to the Holiday Inn dinner party on the beach. Their program for tomorrow includes another three races in windy conditions.

Top five Dart 18 Worlds 2009 after five races and one discard:

FRA - Emmanuel Dodé & Fred Moreau, 5 points
GBR - David Lloyd & Joanna Jones-Pierce, 13 points
GER - Matthias Huber & Dominik Volke, 15 points
NED - Ruud Goudriaan & Bart Damen, 20 points
SUI - Werner Heynisch & Markus Gysi, 30 points

Top three Aruba Heineken Catamaran Regatta after races and one discard:

NED - Xander & Mark Pols, 5 points
NED - Leo Ambtman & Maarten Kroon, 26,5 points
NED - John Moret & Paul Smissaert, 28 points

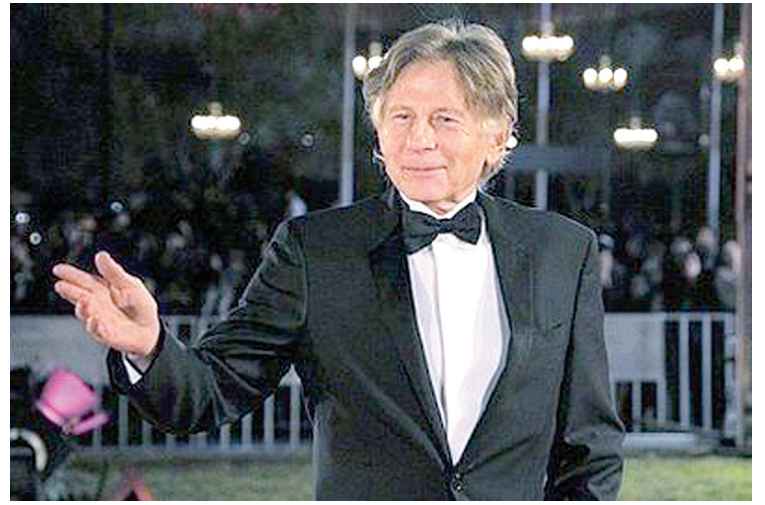


Polanski prepares for luxury Alpine house arrest

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press Writer
GSTAAD, Switzerland — After two months in a Swiss jail, Roman Polanski prepared Thursday for the splendid captivity of his \$1.6 million chalet in one of world's most luxurious winter resorts. Polanski will have views of snowcapped Alpine peaks, spacious rooms and the all the amenities of a town with a reputation for catering to the wishes of the rich and famous. But he won't be able to go out the front door. In this isolated bastion of wealth — which Elizabeth Taylor once called home and Michael Jackson visited — the 76-year-old director will be placed under house arrest as soon as he posts \$4.5 million bail, surrenders his identity

documents and is fitted for an electronic bracelet that allows authorities to monitor his whereabouts. The Justice Ministry declined Thursday to appeal a court decision granting Polanski bail, and said it would release him from jail while it considers whether to extradite him to the United States for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. "He must not leave this house," the ministry said in a statement. Should he violate the terms of release, the bail will be forfeited to the Swiss government, it added. Even without stepping outside, Polanski's life will improve from the small detention cell he had in Zurich with a sink, toilet, television and storage compartment. Gstaad (pronounced guh-

SHTAHD) offers a range of quality restaurants and hotels, and "people here can order food to their chalets any time," said Marlene Mueller of the local tourism agency. From the gourmet shop Pernet Comestibles, fine food such as fresh oysters, Swiss cheeses and a range of whiskies and wine can be delivered. And, even though Polanski may now be the world's most famous fugitive, most locals are likely to leave him alone. "You can get almost everything here, provided you've got the money," tourism chief Roger Seifritz told The Associated Press. "Locals tend to go to the big cities to buy things, but our rich guests can get what they want right here." The village of 3,500 full-time residents has cultivated its image as a haven of luxury



Film director Roman Polanski (pictured in 2008) awaited release from a Swiss prison after a court granted him a 4.5 million dollar bail pending a final decision on whether he should be extradited to the United States over a child sex case.

(AFP/File/Abdelhak Senna)

since Swiss boarding schools set up their winter campuses here for the children of industrialists and aristocrats a century ago. The locals' relaxed attitude to celebrities is typical in Switzerland and especially pronounced in Gstaad, where a "don't stare, don't tell" mentality has lured stars such as Roger Moore and Richard Burton away from the limelight at home.

"We prefer discretion," said Mayor Aldo Kropf. "That's why people come here." Polanski also will get the same treatment from Swiss police, who have vowed to handle his transfer quietly. "We don't want to show him off like an exotic animal," Justice Ministry spokesman Folco Galli told The Associated Press.

The bail decision was a major win for the director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" after a series of legal setbacks following his Sept. 26 arrest on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival.

Polanski was accused of raping a 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy, but he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sentence him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. The evaluator released Polanski after 42 days, but the judge said he was going to send him back to serve out the 90 days. Polanski then fled the United States on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was to be sentenced, and has lived in France since. He claims the U.S. judge and prosecutors acted improperly in his case, and his attorneys will argue before a California appeals court next month that the charges should be dismissed.

Despite ordering Polanski's release, the Swiss Criminal Court said it still considered Polanski a high flight risk. That threat was underscored Thursday by Interpol's secretary general. "Given Mr. Polanski's history of international travel while defying a judicial order, a \$4.5 million bail and an electronic bracelet do not mean that law enforcement lets its global guard down," Ronald K. Noble said. "Mr. Polanski has given us more than 30 years of proof that he does not feel bound to respect any court decision with which he does not agree," he said. "The world law enforcement community should do all in its power to make sure that the Swiss judicial process is allowed to run its course, and if Mr. Polanski defies the conditions of his release, no country should welcome, offer safe haven to, or defend his conduct." □

Adam Lambert furor spreads to gay community

By Jill Serjeant
LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — "American Idol" runner-up Adam Lambert on Wednesday admitted he got carried away during his racy American Music Awards performance, as furor over his singing and dancing stoked a wider controversy in the U.S. gay community. More than 14 million people watched the gay, glam rocker close the live AMA telecast on Sunday with a performance that included Lambert kissing a male keyboard player and pushing the head of another performer into his crotch.



American Idol singer Adam Lambert arrives at the 2009 American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California November 22, 2009.

REUTERS/Danny Moloshok

Complaints poured in to the ABC TV network that aired the show, and it canceled the Lambert's appearance on its "Good Morning America" news and chat show set for Wednesday. Yet rival network CBS put him on its "The Early Show" program, where Lambert claimed he had not intended to provoke audiences but declined to apologize, saying: "I'm not a baby-sitter. I'm a performer."

"I admit I did get carried away, but I don't see anything wrong with it. I do see how people got offended, and that was not my intention," he said. "If it had been a female pop

performer doing the moves that were on the stage, I don't think there'd be nearly as much of an outrage at all," Lambert added. "I think it's because I'm a gay male." The "Early Show" also ran video footage that blurred Lambert's male kiss, and doing so caused the network its own problem. Gay rights groups accused CBS of hypocrisy by also playing unedited video of a kiss between Madonna and Britney Spears at 2003's MTV Video Music Awards. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) said the CBS decision "reinforces an unfortunate double standard that is applied

to openly gay performers." CBS said it had thought hard about the issue. "The Madonna image is very familiar and has appeared countless times including many times on morning television. The Adam Lambert image is a subject of great current controversy, has not been nearly as widely disseminated, and for all we know, may still lead to legal consequences," a CBS News spokesperson said. The broadcast of material deemed obscene or indecent can leave U.S. TV networks open to fines. Some members of the gay community also scorned Lambert. □



Dubai debt fears hit world stock markets

LONDON (AFP) — Global equities slumped Thursday, with Europe down three percent after Dubai's shock call to suspend the debt of a key state company fuelled anxiety about excessive public borrowing, analysts said. The government of Dubai shocked financial markets on Wednesday when it said it would ask creditors of its Dubai World conglomerate for a debt moratorium of at least six months. The request "fed a climate of insecurity and crisis of confidence at a time when fears are mounting about excessive public debt," said

Xavier de Villepion, an analyst with Global Equities in Paris. London's FTSE index of leading shares closed 3.18 percent lower at 5,194.13 points. The market was earlier forced to suspend trading for three and a half hours due to a technical hitch. Frankfurt's DAX index fell 3.25 percent to 5,614.17 points and in Paris the CAC closed 3.41 percent lower at 3,679.23, with major banks suffering all round. In Paris Societe Generale shed 5.48 percent to 45.62 euros. "If (Dubai) had given the debt markets more warning, then there would be less of a

panic now," David Morrison, an analyst at financial betting firm GFT, told AFP. "It's causing a mini flight-to-quality as US, European debt gets bought as a relative safe haven." New York markets were closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday in the United States. In Asia, Shanghai nosedived 3.62 percent, Tokyo fell 0.62 percent and Hong Kong lost 1.78 percent. Chinese shares were also hit by the prospect of tighter banking rules and worries about monetary policy next year. Elsewhere in Europe, Madrid



A Tokyo money dealer looks at a memo as the U.S. dollar is traded at 86.64 yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange in Tokyo, Japan, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009. The dollar has tumbled to 14-year low against the Japanese yen after traders reacted to indications that U.S. interest rates will remain low and that Federal Reserve isn't overly concerned about the dollar's slide.

(AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi)

Robotic hamsters are holidays' unlikely new craze

By MAE ANDERSON,
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK — When Lori Fowlkes first saw robotic Zhu Zhu Pets toy hamsters in September, she remembers her kids started jumping up and down and saying "Please! Please! Can we buy them?" Seeing a fully stocked shelf, she decided to hold off until Christmas.

That was "before I knew that the hamsters would soon be off the shelves and more scarce than an H1N1 vaccine," said Fowlkes, 32.

Now she can't find them anywhere.

Zhu Zhu Pets, which retail for about \$10, are this year's bona fide must-have toy, following in the footsteps of past crazes for Tickle Me Elmo and Cabbage Patch Kids. On resale Web sites like eBay and Craigslist, they fetch \$40 or more. Vital accessories as the hamster car and funhouse are sold separately.

By many counts, the toy is an unlikely hit. They're in a field crowded with toy pets. The hamsters, which scurry around, make noises and drive cars don't always work the way you expect and have a limited



FILE - In this Oct. 1, 2009 file photo, a hamster from Zhu Zhu Pets, by Cepia, is shown at the Time to Play Holiday 2009 Most Wanted List event in New York. Zhu Zhu Pets, which retail for \$8, are this year's bona fide must-have toy, following in the footsteps of past crazes for Tickle Me Elmo and Cabbage Patch Kids.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, file)

range of action. "Honestly, I don't really get it," said BMO Capital Markets analyst Gerrick Johnson. "But I don't need to get it for a toy to be hot." The toys do have several factors that make them compelling, Johnson said: fun accessories and scarcity — sometimes when something is hard to obtain it makes people want it more. And they have one big thing going for them in tough economic times: They're cheap.

"The last couple of years the robotic pet has been very popular, but those have been very expensive," like Hasbro's \$250 robotic dinosaur Kota the Triceratops, he said. "But here's a version of a robotic pet that only costs \$10." Hasbro's line of lower-priced Furreal Friends robotic animals have not hit the same chord, perhaps because they still cost more, are immobile and don't have any accessories. □

fell 2.58 percent to close at 11,657.5 points. Brussels fell 3.08 percent to 2,426.40 and Milan closed 3.60 percent lower at 21,922.

Amsterdam fell 3.62 percent to 306.72 and the Swiss Market Index fell 2.16 percent to 6,283.38.

As equities sank heavily, investors sought safety in the bond market and gold, which struck yet another record high point.

Dubai announced that it would revamp Dubai World, the government holding group behind major building projects in the desert state, and wanted its lenders to extend its maturing debt until at least May 2010.

It added that it had raised five billion dollars in a new bonds issue aimed at helping meet other debt obligations.

Ratings agency Standard & Poor's classified the development as a default and downgraded a raft of Dubai government entities including Dubai World.

"The rating actions are the result of the announcement on November 25 of the restructuring of the debt obligations of Dubai World and its subsidiary, (property developer) Nakheel," S & P

said in a statement.

"In our view, such a restructuring may be considered a default under our default criteria, and represents the failure of the Dubai government to provide timely financial support to a core government-related entity."

Several major economies have emerged from recession in recent months, but experts have warned of risks to recovery, partly from the debts accumulated in tackling the downturn.

Barclays Capital analyst Paul Robinson warned that the issue of Dubai could contribute towards a "serious" pullback in global stock markets.

Others warned that it could take more than a decade for investor enthusiasm for the Gulf emirate to return as a result of this week's development.

"Dubai could not undermine either itself, or global perception any further as a place not to do business in at the moment," MF Global analyst Manus Cranny told AFP.

"It is the much longer term implications on funding, confidence and capital raising that will take a decade or more to re-establish." □



The Spiderman balloon makes its way down Seventh Avenue during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday 26, 2009, in New York.

Associated Press

Americans give thanks, see parades, astronauts feast in space

DEEPTI HAJELA,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Giant balloons, floats, marching bands and clowns with confetti brought smiles to hundreds of thousands of revelers eager to catch a glimpse of a parade as steeped in Thanksgiving Day tradition as turkey and pumpkin pie.

Crowds six to seven people deep lined the streets of Manhattan on Thursday for the 83rd annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as merrymakers gathered nationwide for massive parades in cities such as Detroit and Philadelphia.

Soldiers in war zones received phone calls of appreciation from President Barack Obama, while astronauts hovering above the Earth's surface feasted on turkey smuggled aboard the space shuttle Atlantis.

In New York City, Miss America Katie Stam waved to crowds from a Statue of Liberty float she shared with Meb Keflezighi, the first American in 11 years to win the New York City Marathon.

Shailesh Dighe and his family came to the fabled parade to snap pictures of celebrities including rapper Jay Sean and singer-actress Keke Palmer. Despite the crowds, Dighe said the parade is "totally worth it."

"When you watch it on TV, you don't get

that feeling," said Dighe, who splits his time between Manhattan and Princeton, N.J.

For the first time, the parade route bypassed Broadway, which cuts a diagonal slice through Manhattan, as it made its way south from the Upper West Side to the finish at Macy's flagship store in Herald Square.

The new route traverses the grid of the city's streets and avenues, includes turns around five corners, and is slightly longer than in previous years — 2.65 miles compared with 2.5 miles.

Johanna Castillo, 38, of Guttenberg, N.J., said the new route seemed to better accommodate the crowds.

"I was very blessed to get here at the time I did and find a spot" a half-hour before parade time, said Castillo, who arrived with her two children. Maryann Alonzo, 48, of Queens, N.Y., has been coming to the parade since she was a baby. She showed up Thursday with her daughter and friends to cheer on her father, who's been performing in the parade for 25 years as a clown.

"This is our Thanksgiving," Alonzo said. "More than the food."

Celebrity entertainment included Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, comedian Jimmy Fallon, former "American Idol" star Katharine McPhee and singers Gloria Gaynor and Carly Simon.

Continued on Next Page

Recovery mission for cave victim on hold



Rescue workers gather at the Nutty Putty Cave in Elberta, Utah to help rescue a man stuck deep in the cave on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009. Utah County sheriff's Sgt. Spencer Cannon said John Jones, 26, of Stansbury Park, became stuck about 700 feet into the narrow cave, known as Nutty Putty, at about 9 p.m. Tuesday while spelunking with a group of about 11 people.

Associated Press

JENNIFER DOBNER

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A recovery effort to extract the body of a man who became trapped in a cave was on hold Thursday as officials tried to determine how best to proceed.

Continued on Page B5



Archbishop of Dublin Diarmuid Martin holds a copy of the report on the Dublin Archdiocese's mishandling of abuse complaints against its parish priests from 1975 to 2004 as he arrives for a press conference in Dublin, Ireland, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009. The Archbishop said no words of apology will ever be sufficient to the victims of child abuse. Speaking after the publication of the report of the Commission of Investigation into the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin, he said that the report highlights devastating failings of the past, and that "there is no room for revisionism regarding the norms and procedures in place".

Associated Press

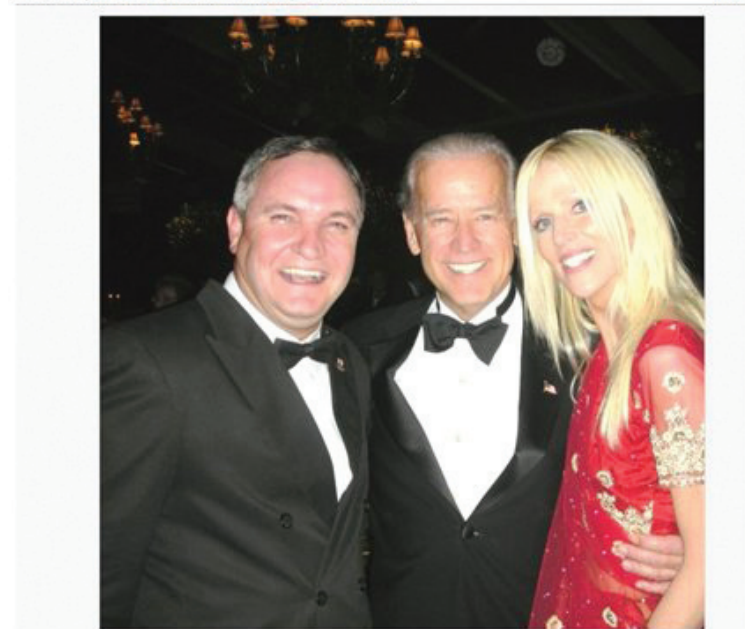
Experts: Bishops covered up priests' child abuse

Read Page B9

Attorney says dinner crashers shouldn't need him



Michael Salahi's Photos - White House State Dinner
Photo 4 of 12 | Back to Album | Michael Salahi's Photos | Michael Salahi's Profile



Tareq, Vice President Biden & Michael

From the album:
"White House State Dinner" by
Michael Salahi

This screen image made from Michael Salahi's Facebook page shows a photo of, Tareq Salahi, left, Vice President Joe Biden and Michael Salahi, right, at the White House state dinner in Washington on Tuesday Nov. 24, 2009. The Secret Service is looking into its own security procedures after determining that a Virginia couple, Michael and Tareq Salahi, managed to slip into Tuesday night's state dinner at the White House even though they were not on the guest list, agency spokesman Ed Donovan said.

Associated Press

LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The couple who crashed a White House dinner for the visiting Indian prime minister shouldn't need legal help, an attorney who knows them said Thursday, as the Secret Service remained quiet publicly about the eye-catching security breach.

"They just went to a party. They didn't do anything wrong," Paul Morrison, a Virginia attorney who has represented Michael and Tareq Salahi in the past, told The Associated Press. A Secret Service investigation of the security breach, now under way, will help determine whether Morrison is right about the lack of legal

liability. But the main focus was on the agency itself. Edward Donovan, a Secret Service spokesman, acknowledged the officers at the checkpoint involved in clearance for the state dinner for visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh did not follow proper procedure when the Salahis arrived and it was determined they had not been invited. But he declined to reveal anything the Secret Service knows about what happened next. During President George W. Bush's administration, it was standard procedure to have someone from the White House social office at the gate for state dinners and other events with large groups of visitors, according to a former senior Bush aide who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to be seen as criticizing the Obama White House.

The social office is most knowledgeable about the guest list and could have been called in case of any uncertainty, this official said. White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers, asked by The AP on Thursday whether personnel from her office were at the checkpoint said, "We were not."

It was unclear whether the northern Virginia couple could be charged with trespassing or any other violation. But in his interview

with The AP, Morrison said, "I know them. I'm unaware of any reason they need representation right now." Morrison said he hasn't spoken to the Salahis since the incident.

President Barack Obama was never in any danger because the Salahis went through the same security screening for weapons as the 300-plus people actually invited to the dinner, Donovan said.

However Ronald Kessler, author of a book on the Secret Service, said, "While the couple did pass through a magnetometer to detect weapons, they could have assassinated the president or vice president using other means — anthrax, for example. The additional security checks referred to by the Secret Service spokesman screen for such items as radiological contamination but would not detect secreted biological weapons."

Kessler, a journalist, wrote "In the President's Secret Service: Behind the Scenes with Agents in the Line of Fire and the Presidents They Protect." The eventual winners in the incident could be the Salahis, who were being considered for the reality TV show "Real Housewives of D.C."

The couple bragged about their success on their Facebook page. "Honored to be at the White House for the

state dinner in honor of India with President Obama and our First Lady!" they wrote. And, along with photos of the couple at the event, they wrote: "A Sensational Night honoring India."

And this posting under a picture of Michael with Vice President Joe Biden: "OMG! SO EXCITING!!!!!! IRISH EYES ARE SMILING TOGETHER!"

It's not the first time crashers have gotten past presidential security.

Richard Weaver, a self-described Christian minister from California, wormed his way into President George W. Bush's 2001 inauguration and shook Bush's hand, repeating a stunt he pulled off at President Bill Clinton's 1997 inauguration.

"I don't have to push through and I never have to do any 'Mission Impossible'-type stunts," Weaver, nicknamed "Handshake Man" for his exploits, told The Associated Press after his 2001 Bush handshake.

"I see it as a miracle," Weaver told AP. "I believe God makes me invisible to the security, undetectable." Weaver wasn't invisible at Bush's second inauguration. Security caught him attempting to crash the 2005 ceremony and he was barred from entering the White House or Capitol grounds for five years. □

THANKSGIVING PARADE Continued from Page B1

Elsewhere, tens of thousands gathered in the streets of downtown Detroit for the 83rd annual America's Thanksgiving Parade. The country's longest-run Thanksgiving Day parade was held in Philadelphia for its 90th year.

In Detroit, where the September unemployment rate was 17.3 percent, parade organizers set up three locations where revelers could drop off donations of canned food for the area food bank. Eugene Peterson, 35, an unemployed construction worker from Detroit, said he

had plenty to be thankful for. "I'm thankful we have a president who understands we're going through a hard time," Peterson said. "I'm thankful they extended unemployment (benefits) because there ain't no jobs around here. It's kind of like government showing yeah, they care."

Aboard Atlantis, astronauts expecting to give thanks with pantry leftovers were surprised by turkey dinners with candied yams, freeze-dried cornbread stuffing and green beans — just add water. NASA suspected the station's new skipper was responsible for the Thanksgiving feast.

Obama enjoyed a quiet holiday at the White House with his family and telephoned 10 members of the U.S. military stationed in war zones to thank them for their service.

As daylight faded in Afghanistan, soldiers huddled inside a crude wooden hut to tuck into Thanksgiving turkeys the unit itself had fattened and to give thanks for having survived a year of combat.

Dense fog delayed some flights Thursday for Thanksgiving travelers headed to the Washington and Baltimore areas.

The Federal Aviation Administration says the fog prompted a ground stop for



A U.S. soldier, left, waits to receive turkey meat during a Thanksgiving Day lunch at the U.S. base of Bagram north of Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

flights arriving Thursday morning at all three Washington-area airports. Departing flights were apparently not affected. The FAA lifted its ground stop by 10:30 a.m. □

Project promotes talking, not shopping, on Friday

By TRAVIS LOLLER,
Associated Press Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A national oral history project is trying to start a new tradition for Black Friday. Instead of hunting for bargains, StoryCorps suggests families sit down together and talk about their lives on a National Day of Listening.

Amanda Rigell, a 30-year-old middle school teacher from Johnson City, interviewed her grandmother, who was 89 at the time, for the first National Day of Listening last year. "She was reluctant at first," Rigell said. "She doesn't really talk about herself." But then she talked for more than two and a half hours. "She talked about her early education. She went to a tiny little school, I think there was only one other person there for a while. And she talked about drinking fresh milk from a cow. I guess that shouldn't have surprised me, but it did," Rigell said.

StoryCorps is a nonprofit project that seeks to preserve the stories of ordinary people. Rigell first learned about it when she heard some of those stories broadcast on public radio during her morning commute. She had already interviewed two people at StoryCorps recording booths when she and her father decided to interview her grandmother at home.

"I'm really glad we did it last year because her health has been declining," she said. "There was a while last month when she couldn't speak."

Rigell said her grandmother, who lives in Campbell County near the Kentucky border, was around for all the "big events" of her childhood. Some of her fondest memories of her grandmother involve home cooked meals and "amazing" buttermilk biscuits. But there were a lot of things Rigell didn't know about her.

Rigell recorded the interview on her computer and plans to give copies as Christmas presents.

"She has seven kids and I'm pretty sure there's at least one story about each of them," she said.

Rigell will be with relatives in Oklahoma this Thanksgiving and is thinking of interviewing two young cousins, ages 6 and 8.

"It should be interesting to listen to when they're 18," she said.

Meredith Sullins of Nashville plans to interview her grandfather this year. The 25-year-old doesn't have children yet, but when she does she wants them to be able to know something about the man who helped raise her.

"I'm probably going to ask about his childhood, and about my dad when he was little, and about his relationship with my grandmother. They've been married almost 65 years," Sullins said.

The nursing assistant and student plans to

spend Thanksgiving with her grandparents in Hendersonville, she said. She will also interview her grandmother if there's time. Sullins said one of her earliest memories is of her grandfather jumping, fully clothed, into a swimming pool to rescue her when she was 2 years old. Another is the time he took her to buy her first car and let her drive it home, even though she didn't have her license yet. But she doesn't know much about her 87-year-old grandfather's life before she was born.

"He doesn't talk a lot about his past," she said. "He's the quiet, happy one."

She does know that he grew up in Nashville with five siblings and left school in the eighth grade during the



In this Nov. 28, 2008 file photo, a line of customers waits outside the Kohl's department store in Middletown, Ohio, to start their Black Friday shopping when the store opens at 4 a.m. Shopping on Black Friday can be daunting, with massive crowds, pre-dawn start times and long checkout lines.

Associated Press

Depression. (He later earned a GED certificate.)

Sullins said she first learned of StoryCorps, like Rigell, when she heard some of the interviews on the radio. She found out about the National Day of Listening through an e-mail and thought it sounded

like the perfect opportunity to interview her grandfather.

"He's had a lot of health problems recently," she said, her voice breaking. After a pause, she added, "And he might not be around too much longer." □

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Obama and Republicans differ over jobs, economy



President Barack Obama delivers a statement on the economy, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, in the Diplomatic Reception Room of the White House Washington.

Associated Press

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

(AP)

— President Barack Obama and a top House Republican acknowledged in messages Thursday the economic struggles facing Americans on the country's Thanksgiving holiday but offered starkly different recipes for relief.

Obama and Republican Rep. Mike Pence singled out U.S. service members at home and abroad for special thanks before saying what they think should be done to fix the economy.

"As much as we all have to be thankful for, we also know that this year millions of Americans are facing very difficult economic

times," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address. "Many have lost jobs in this recession — the worst in generations. Many more are struggling to afford health care premiums and house payments, let alone to save for an education or retirement. Too many are wondering if the dream of a middle-class life — that American dream — is slipping away."

Obama said his administration has acted by cutting taxes for

nearly all working men and women and for small businesses and by extending unemployment benefits and health coverage for millions out of work. He trumpeted other administration initiatives, including the health care overhaul, before saying more needs to be done, particularly for those without jobs.

Obama said he will meet next week with business owners, labor leaders and nonprofit officials to talk about additional efforts to spur job creation.

"It is my fervent hope — and my heartfelt expectation — that next Thanksgiving we will be able to celebrate the fact that many of those who have lost their jobs are back at work and that as a nation we will have come through these difficult storms stronger and wiser and grateful to have reached a brighter day," he said.

Pence, the chairman of the House Republican Conference, said in the Republican Party's weekly address that Obama had promised that the \$787 billion economic stimulus package would keep unemployment, now at 10.2 percent, below 8 percent. Yet, Pence said, the

administration insists the stimulus plan is working. "In the city and on the farm, as millions of American families struggle to balance their checkbooks this holiday season, they watch in astonishment as Washington spends billions of dollars it doesn't have," he said. "And what is the White House's answer to our struggles? Another meeting next week. A 'jobs summit,' and most likely another proposal to grow government, raise taxes and place more debt on the shoulders of our children and grandchildren."

Pence said Obama and the Democratic Congress have taken the economy "from bad to worse with their failed economic agenda and big government plans" and now want the government to take over the nation's health care system.

"The way to stimulate this economy and help working families is to let Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, not taking more from their wallets," he said. "Republicans have proposals to get our economy moving again, to achieve energy independence and lower the cost of health care." □



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CAVE VICTIM

Continued from Page B1

John Jones, 26, died early Thursday, nearly 28 hours after he became stuck upside-down in Nutty Putty Cave, a popular spelunking site about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City.

It's unclear when the effort to recover his body will resume, said Sgt. Spencer Cannon of Utah County sheriff's office. Rescue teams had been using drilling equipment to try and free Jones from the cave while he was still alive. Cannon said recovery work can be more aggressive than a rescue because the victim's well-being is considered differently. Jones was part of a group of 11 people exploring the cave passages. The 6-foot-tall, 190-pound spelunker got stuck with his head at an angle below his feet about 9 p.m. Tuesday. At times more than 50 rescuers were involved in trying to free him.

The crevice was about 150 feet below ground in an L-shaped area of the cave known as "Bob's Push," which is only about 18 inches wide and 10 inches high, Cannon said. Jones was freed from the crevice late Wednesday afternoon but fell back several feet into the tight space when an anchor in the cave roof that supported the pulley system failed, Cannon said.

Rescuers were able to get him food and water during that temporary freedom. But in the hours after he became wedged again, Jones' physical condition deteriorated.

Jones' death is the first known fatality at the cave,

according to the Utah County sheriff's office. Search and rescue workers successfully rescued two people from the same spot in the cave during the same week in 2004.

"It's not very often where you come in, you have high hopes and you are going into an operation you have done before with success and then you get into a situation where it doesn't go as you planned," Cannon said. "Caving isn't generally considered to be a dangerous sport," Cannon said. "But I think you can safely say this is a dangerous spot in that cave."

The sheriff's office wouldn't give an opinion about whether the cave should remain open for recreation or be closed, Cannon said.

The cave is privately owned by Utah's State Institutional Trust Land Administration. Reservations and an access pass is required to explore the cave, with usage restricted to about six groups daily.

Cave access manager,



This undated family photo provided Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, shows John Jones, left, and his wife, Emily Dawn Jones. John Jones, 26, of Stansbury Park, died Thursday after he became stuck upside-down in Nutty Putty Cave, a popular spelunking site about 80 miles south of Salt Lake City. His funeral is planned for Saturday in Stansbury Park.

Associated Press

Michael Leavitt said the Jones group had a pass and were experienced cavers, based on the information provided on a pass application.

Nutty Putty is now closed until a decision can be made about its future, Leavitt said. □



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Haiti bans prominent party from 2010 legislative election



Haiti's new Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, center, sits next to his predecessor Michele Pierre-Louis, left, and Haiti's President Rene Preval during his inauguration ceremony at the national palace in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009.

Associated Press

EVENS SANON,
Associated Press Writer
PORT-AU-PRINCE, (AP)
— Haiti's electoral council
has banned the influential
party of exiled former

President Jean-Bertrand
Aristide from next year's
legislative elections.
The Fanmi Lavalas party,
which remains a major
party with support from

the capital's urban poor, is
among 17 groups barred
from February's elections
because they submitted
improper documents. The
list includes the Lespwa

movement that formed
around President Rene
Preval when he ran for
president in 2004.

Aristide, who has been living
in exile in South Africa after
he was overthrown during
a 2004 rebellion, called
the decision to eliminate
Lavalas "an electoral coup
d'etat." He spoke in an
interview late Wednesday
with Radio Solidarite.

Lespwa officials did not
answer phone calls seeking
comment on Thursday.

The Lavalas party boycotted
Senate run-off elections
in June after the council
disqualified its candidates
on a technicality, and
was barred from 2006
presidential elections.

Lavalas executive council
head Maryse Narcisse
told The Associated Press
on Thursday she did not

understand why the party
was rejected.

"We did everything that we
were supposed to do," she
said. "We were excluded
without any reasons, and
now we are waiting for an
answer."

The council approved 53
parties to run in the elections.
The vote is now scheduled
for Feb. 28, but might be
postponed to coincide with
presidential elections later
in the year. Rejected parties
can appeal.

Haiti's legislature chose
a new prime minister last
week as tensions remain
high over the presence of
9,000 U.N. peacekeepers,
who arrived in the
impoverished country after
the 2004 rebellion.

Jean-Max Bellerive is the
sixth prime minister to hold
the post since 2004. □



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2

*matinee: saturday & sunday | late show: friday and saturday

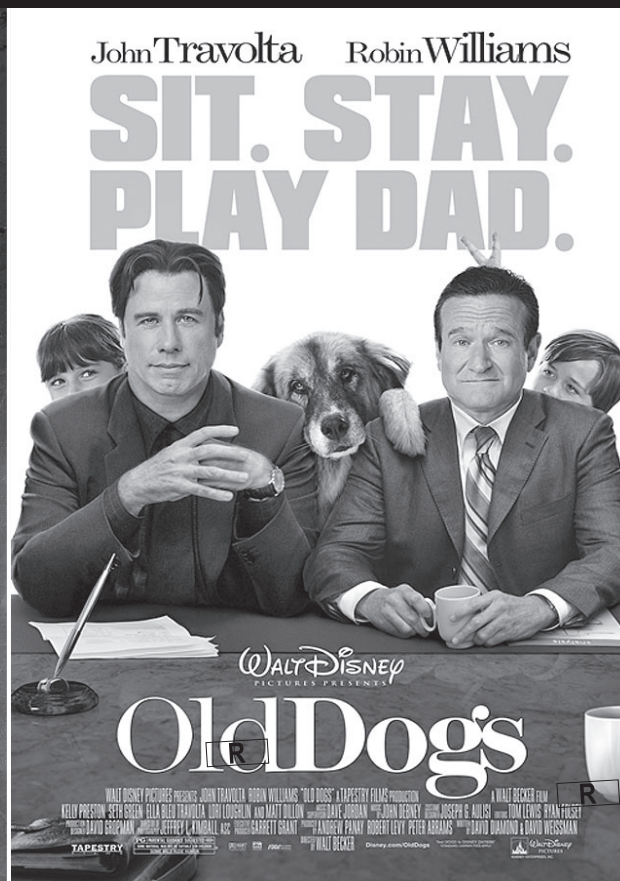
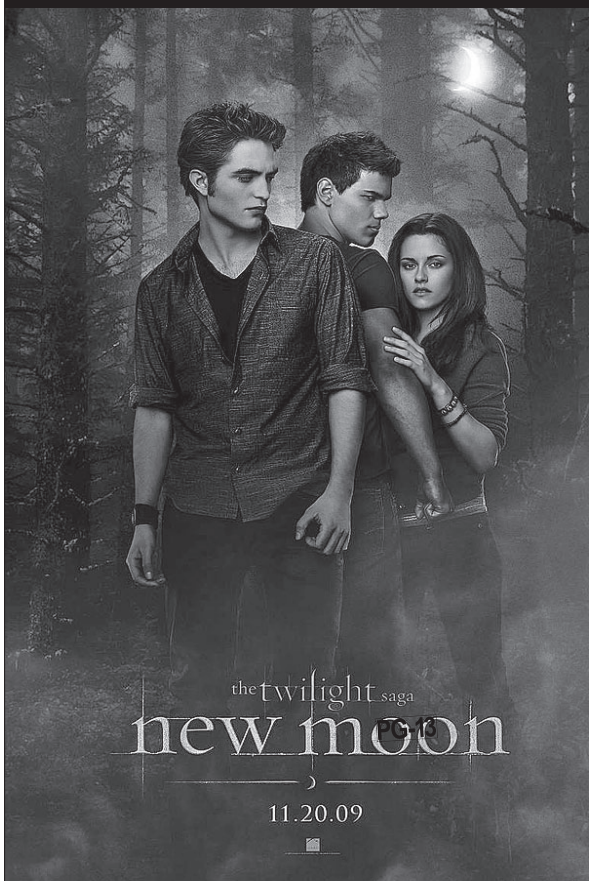
AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

PG	OLD DOGS	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:15	6:15 2:15	8:15 late show: 12:15	NEW
PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily: 5:45 matinee: 12:15	3:00	8:45 late show: 23:45	NEW
R	PRECIOUS	daily: 1:15 matinee: 3:45	6:15 3:45	8:45 late show: 11:15	
R	NEX DAY AIR	daily: 7:45 matinee: 10:00		late show: 12:00	
PG	THIS IS IT: MICHAEL JACKSON	daily: 1:00 matinee: 3:30	6:00 3:30	8:30 late show: 11:00	
PG	TIM BURTON'S NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	4:00 2:00	6:00 late show:	3D
G	SINTERKLAAS EN DE VERDWENEN PAKJESBOOT	daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:00	4:30 2:15	6:45 late show:	
R	THE STEPFATHER	daily: 9:00 matinee: 11:30		late show: 11:30	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	THE TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON	daily: 5:30 matinee: 12:00	5:30 2:45	8:30 late show: 11:30	NEW
PG-13	2012	daily: 1:00 matinee: 4:30	4:30	8:00 late show: 11:15	
PG	ASTRO BOY	daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:00	4:30 2:15	late show:	
R	LAW ABIDING CITIZEN	daily: 9:15 matinee: 12:00		late show: 12:00	
PG	THIS IS IT: MICHAEL JACKSON	daily: 12:45 matinee: 3:15	5:45 3:15	8:15 late show: 11:00	
PG-13	COUPLES RETREAT	daily: 7:15 matinee: 9:45	7:15	late show: 12:15	
PG-13	WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:30	5:00 2:45	late show:	
R	PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	daily: 6:45 matinee: 9:00	6:45	late show: 11:15	
PG	A CHRISTMAS CAROL 3D	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15	4:45 2:30	7:00 late show:	3D

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Iran seizes rights lawyer's Nobel Peace medal

IAN MacDOUGALL

NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press Writers

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian authorities have confiscated Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi's medal, the human rights lawyer said Thursday, in a sign of the increasingly drastic steps Tehran is taking against any dissent.

In Norway, where the peace prize is awarded, the government said the confiscation of the gold medal was a shocking first in the history of the 108-year-old prize.

Ebadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her efforts in promoting democracy. She has long faced harassment from Iranian authorities for her activities — including threats against her relatives and a raid on her office last year in which files were confiscated.

The seizure of her prize is an expression of the Iranian government's harsh approach to anyone it considers an opponent — particularly since the massive street protests triggered by hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed June 12 re-election.

Acting on orders from Tehran's Revolutionary Court, authorities took the peace prize medal about three weeks ago from a safe-deposit box in Iran, Ebadi said in a phone interview from London. They also seized her Legion of Honor and a ring awarded to her by a German association

of journalists, she said.

Authorities froze the bank accounts of her and her husband and demanded \$410,000 in taxes that they claimed were owed on the \$1.3 million she was awarded. Ebadi said, however, that such prizes are exempt from tax under Iranian law. She said the government also appears intent on trying to confiscate her home.

Ebadi, the first Muslim woman to be awarded the peace prize and the first female judge in Iran, said she would not be intimidated and that her absence from the country since June did not mean she felt exiled.

"Nobody is able to send me to exile from my home country," she said. "I have received many threatening messages. ... They said they would detain me if I returned, or that they would make the environment unsafe for me wherever I am. "But my activities are legal and nobody can ban me from my legal activities."

Ebadi has criticized the Iranian government's crackdown on demonstrations by those claiming the June vote was stolen from a pro-reform candidate through massive fraud.

Ebadi left the country a day before the vote to attend a conference in Spain and has not returned since. In the days after the vote, she urged the international community to reject the outcome and called for a new election monitored

by the United Nations.

During the past months, hundreds of pro-reform activists have been arrested, and a mass trial has sentenced dozens to prison terms. Authorities also went after Ebadi's human rights center in Iran.

"After the election all my colleagues in the center were either detained or banned from traveling abroad," Ebadi said. Calls to Iranian judiciary officials were not returned Thursday.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere called the move "shocking" and said it was "the first time a Nobel Peace Prize has been confiscated by national authorities."

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry summoned Iran's charge d'affaires in Norway Wednesday to protest the confiscation, spokeswoman Ragnhild Imerslund said.

The Foreign Ministry also "expressed grave concern" about Ebadi's husband, who it said was arrested in Tehran and "severely beaten" earlier this fall, after which his pension and bank account were frozen.

Ebadi said her husband, Javad Tavassolian, and her brother and sister have been threatened many times by authorities pushing them to persuade her to end her human rights campaigning.

Ebadi has represented opponents of Iran's regime



In this Thursday July 9, 2009 file photo, Iranian Nobel Peace laureate Shirin Ebadi, center, gestures with youths wearing T-shirts with "Peace" written on the front, as she visits the Scampia district, in Secondigliano on the outskirts of Naples, southern Italy.

Associated Press

before but not in the mass trial that started in August of more than 100 prominent pro-reform figures and activists. They are accused of plotting to overthrow the cleric-led regime during the postelection turmoil.

The Iranian Embassy in Norway refrained from giving a comment.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee's permanent secretary, Geir Lundestad, said the move was "unheard of" and "unacceptable." □

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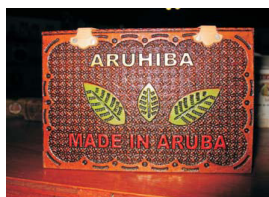


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Saudi floods kill 77 while Muslims perform hajj

HADEEL AL-SHALCHI

Associated Press Writer

MOUNT ARAFAT, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Muslim pilgrims holding white umbrellas against the blazing sun clambered up a rocky desert hill for prayers Thursday during the annual hajj, a day after torrential rains that killed at least 77 people.

Flooding from the unusually heavy downpours hit hardest in the Red Sea coastal city of Jiddah, about 40 miles away from the holy city of Mecca and its surrounding sacred sites where the 3 million Muslims from around the world were performing the rites of the pilgrimage.

Most of the deaths occurred in the shantytowns around Jiddah and along the main highway to Mecca, populated by poorer, foreign immigrants who work in the city as drivers, construction workers and domestic help. Streets were swamped with water, some houses collapsed and mudslides took place, Civil Defense officials said.

It did not immediately appear that any pilgrims were among the dead. Jiddah's civil defense chief Capt. Abdullah al-Amri said 21 of the victims were identified as Saudis and the rest were believed to be residents of Saudi Arabia.

Wednesday's downpours snarled the opening day of the hajj, drenching pilgrims and knocking out roads that caused epic traffic jams as the faithful tried to make



Pilgrims attending the hajj walk on flooded streets during heavy rains in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009. The heaviest rainstorms to hit Islam's annual hajj in years soaked pilgrims and flooded the road into Mecca, snarling traffic as millions of Muslims headed for the holy sites and added an extra hazard on top of intense concerns about the spread of swine flu.

Associated Press

their way to the holy sites. The rains, if they continue as meteorologists predict, could raise safety hazards — particularly the perennial danger of deadly stampedes, since a trip-up on slippery walkways could lead to people getting trampled in crowds.

But skies cleared for most of Thursday, and the heat rose. The umbrellas that protected pilgrims from the rain now were shades from the hot sun as they conducted their rituals in the desert plateau of Mount Arafat, about 12 miles east of Mecca.

The site is where Islam's Prophet Muhammad delivered his farewell sermon. The huge crowds of faithful climbed up the

Mountain of Mercy, a rocky hill at Arafat, and prayed for God's forgiveness of their sins in what Muslims consider the spiritual high point of the pilgrimage.

Mohammed Ismail, a 51-year-old Syria who has lived the Saudi capital for the past 15 years, brought his wife and two young sons for the hajj, and Wednesday night they slept in their car at Arafat before performing the rites.

"You can't really describe the feeling of being at hajj and being so close to so many Muslims. It's so happy," he said, sitting on a straw mat by the roadside with his family, eating oranges. "The heat and the crowds can be difficult, but hajj is a difficulty, it's not

supposed to be easy."

At the Mountain of Mercy, men in the white robes that males are required to wear and women in headscarves called out in prayer, and some prostrated at the foot of the mountain. In the tent city around the site, tired families took shelter in the shade of cars and buses or napped.

In the evening, the vast sea of people headed toward the next stage of the pilgrimage, the nearby plains of Muzdalifah. Tens of thousands of buses, SUVs, and cars jammed the road, while flocks of pilgrims walked across the barren landscape, carrying their belongings.

At Muzdalifah, the faithful pick stones to use in the

ritual that begins Friday, the symbolic stoning of the devil. At the nearby valley of Mina, they pelt stones at three walls representing Satan in a rejection of temptation.

The first day of stoning also marks the start of the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Adha, or feast of sacrifice, when Muslims around the world slaughter sheep and cattle in remembrance of Abraham's near-sacrifice of his son. The stoning lasts three days until the end of hajj on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia's biggest worry for months ahead of the hajj has been swine flu. The pilgrimage is one of the most crowded events in the world, with masses of Muslims from every corner of the globe packed shoulder to shoulder in prayers and rites — a perfect incubator for the virus, according to epidemiologists.

The Saudi government has been working with the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to set up clinics and take precautions to stem any outbreak.

The rains came as an added difficulty.

It often rains in Mecca and Jiddah during the winter months, but Wednesday's downpour was the heaviest in years during the hajj. Jiddah was swamped with 2.76 inches of rain, more than it would normally get in an entire year, according to Dale Mohler, senior meteorologist at the Web site AccuWeather.com. □



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Experts: Bishops covered up priests' child abuse

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN (AP) — Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Dublin covered up decades of child abuse by priests to protect the church's reputation, an expert commission reported Thursday after a three-year investigation.

Abuse victims welcomed the report on the Dublin Archdiocese's mishandling of abuse complaints against its parish priests from 1975 to 2004. It followed a parallel report published in May into five decades of rape, beatings and other cruelty committed by Catholic orders of nuns and brothers nationwide in church-run schools, children's workhouses and orphanages from the 1930s to mid-1990s. The government said the Dublin investigation "shows clearly that a systemic, calculated perversion of power and trust was visited on helpless and innocent children in the archdiocese."

"The perpetrators must continue to be brought to

justice, and the people of Ireland must know that this can never happen again," the government said, also apologizing for the state's failure to hold church authorities accountable to the law.

The 720-page report — delivered to the government in July but released Thursday after extensive legal vetting — analyzes the cases of 46 priests against whom 320 complaints were filed. The 46 were selected from more than 150 Dublin priests implicated in molesting or raping boys and girls since 1940.

Eleven priests convicted of child abuse are named in the report, but 33 are referred to by aliases and two have their names blacked out because their criminal cases are about to begin in Dublin courts.

The report rejected past bishops' key claim that they were ignorant of both the scale and criminality of priests' abuse of children. It documented how the Dublin Archdiocese negotiated a

1987 insurance policy for future legal costs of defending lawsuits and compensation claims.

At the time, bishops knew of at least 17 priests linked to abuse cases, the report said, and "the taking out of insurance was an act proving knowledge of child sexual abuse as a potential major cost to the archdiocese."

Victims appealed to the government not to let bishops retain the right to decide whether to refer abuse complaints to police.

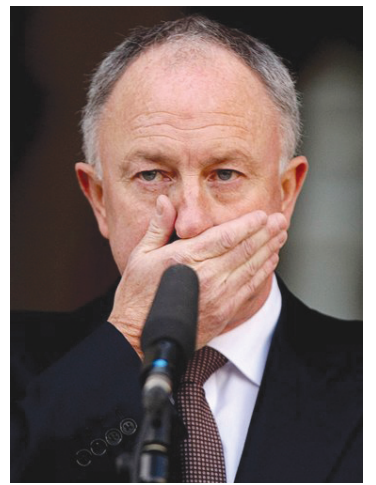
"Never again should the Catholic Church in Ireland blame others for its own decision to reassign priests (to other parishes) who were clearly a danger to children," said one abuse victim, Marie Collins.

She was raped by a Dublin priest as a 13-year-old hospital patient in 1960, but police and church officials declined to pursue her complaint. Investigators spent three years poring over 60,000 previously secret Dublin church files.

They were handed over by Dublin Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, a veteran Vatican diplomat appointed to Dublin in 2004 with a brief to confront the scandal.

Among the files were more than 5,500 that Martin's predecessor, retired Cardinal Desmond Connell, had tried to keep locked in the archbishop's private vault. The investigators, led by a judge and two lawyers, said that while it was not their job to confirm the scale of abuse cases, they had no doubt that the 46 priests abused many more than 320 children.

"One priest admitted to sexually abusing over 100 children, while another accepted that he had abused on a fortnightly basis during the currency of his ministry which lasted for over 25 years," they wrote. Three Dublin archbishops — John Charles McQuaid (1940-72), Dermot Ryan (1972-84) and Kevin McNamara (1985-87) — did not tell police about clerical abuse cases, instead opting to avoid public scandals



Ireland's Justice Minister Dermot Ahern puts his hand to his mouth during a press conference at Government Buildings regarding the cover up of child abuse within the Catholic church Thursday Nov. 26, 2009. Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in Dublin covered up decades of child abuse by priests in order to protect the church's reputation, an expert commission reported Thursday after a three-year investigation.

Associated Press

by shuttling offenders from parish to parish and even overseas to U.S. churches, the commission found. □

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Rogers throws 3 TDs in Packers 34-12 win over Lions



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) throws a pass in the second quarter of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, in Detroit, Mich.

Associated Press

LARRY LAGE

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Aaron Rodgers matched a career high with three touchdown passes and Green Bay beat the Detroit Lions 34-12 on Thursday, giving the Packers three straight wins and improving their playoff prospects.

The Lions lost their sixth straight game on Thanksgiving, setting a franchise record, and had an emotional setback after their biggest comeback win since 1957.

Matthew Stafford, playing with a sore non-throwing shoulder, threw one touchdown pass and four interceptions in a rookie-like performance, after passing for five scores in Sunday's win over Cleveland. Detroit trailed the Browns by 21 before coming all the way back.

The Lions (2-9) looked like they were building off that momentum by recovering a fumble on the opening kickoff and with Stafford's TD pass to Calvin Johnson. But the Packers (7-4) scored 27 unanswered points in the second and third quarter to turn the game into a familiar rout.

Detroit lost its previous five games on Thanksgiving by an average of 23.4 points, and eight of nine in the showcase game. The Lions are 33-35-2 on the holiday since 1934.

The Packers have won nine straight against them overall, and coach Mike McCarthy is 8-0 in the

suddenly lopsided series.

Charles Woodson returned his second interception for a score late in the game and struck a Heisman Trophy pose in the end zone, just as he did in 1997 at Michigan before going on to win the award. Woodson forced and recovered a fumble on the ensuing possession.

Rodgers was 28 of 39 for 348 yards and connected with Donald Lee, Donald Driver and James Jones for scores. He has played Detroit four times and those passing totals rank among the top eight in his career.

Driver had seven receptions for 142 yards, including a 68-yard catch, and a TD that gave the Packers a 20-7 lead midway through the third quarter.

Green Bay played without cornerback Al Harris and linebacker Aaron Kampman, both of whom had season-ending knee injuries in last week's win, and were just fine without them.

Stafford was only 20 of 43 yards for 213 yards, and his four interceptions were one fewer than he had earlier this year. He was listed as doubtful for the game because of his shoulder injury, but his decision-making seemed to be more of a problem than his health.

Johnson, who was questionable with hand and knee injuries, only had a 9-yard catch to go with his 1-yard score. □



Britain's Andy Murray reacts during his ATP World Tour Finals tennis match against Spain's Fernando Verdasco at the O2 Arena in London, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Juan Martin del Potro squeaked into the semifinals of the ATP World Tour Finals by beating Roger Federer 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3 Thursday — the slimmest

Del Potro beats Federer to reach ATP semifinals

possible margin to advance and knock Andy Murray out of the tournament.

The result means Del Potro and Federer both advance after a three-way tie in Group A, with Murray's elimination literally coming down to the last game after three rounds of group matches.

All three players finished the round-robin stage with two wins and identical 5-4 set records, but Murray had the lowest percentage of games won. Had Del Potro lost just one more game against Federer, Murray would have advanced at the Argentine's expense.

Murray beat Fernando Verdasco 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) earlier Thursday.

The complicated tiebreaker system left even the players uncertain about who had advanced when the last match was over.

"I asked Juan Martin myself

at the net, 'Did you make it or not?'" Federer said. "He said, 'I don't think so.' ... Of course, you got to feel sorry for the guy who didn't make it. At the same time, Del Potro beat the No. 1 player in the world in the group, and I guess also deserves to go through. There's only two places, and that's the way it is."

Del Potro said he had to wait 25 minutes before getting confirmation that he advanced. "Because nobody knows what happen," he said. "But, well, I qualified."

Federer would have been eliminated with a straight-set loss and looked in serious trouble against the U.S. Open champion. He trailed 5-4 in the second-set tiebreaker with Del Potro on serve, but the Argentine netted a simple forehand that would have set up two match points.

Federer then converted his set point with a forehand volley,

and celebrated by jumping into the air with both fists clenched.

"I knew I couldn't lose in two sets because I knew that was going to knock me out," Federer said. "That's why I was very excited."

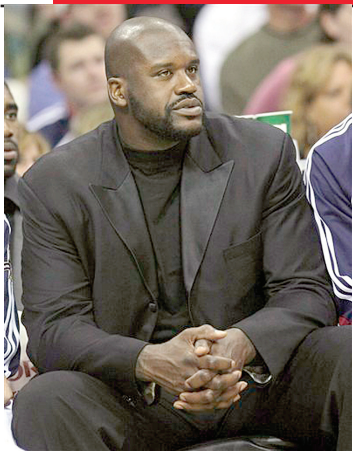
The deciding set then went with serve until 4-3, with Del Potro needing to break to keep alive his chances of advancing. He did just that, going up 0-40 before converting his second break point when Federer put a forehand wide. He then closed out the match with a second-serve ace, to repeat his victory over Federer in the U.S. Open final. "I played good tennis today, similar to New York, a little better in some moments of the match," Del Potro said. "I served good in important moments. I take my opportunities. That's what I have to do against the best player of the world — take the opportunities and try to play

the best tennis."

Like in his first two matches, Federer had a poor start.

He was broken in the first game when he sent a forehand long, and then double-faulted on break point to give Del Potro a 4-1 lead in the first set. The Swiss star also showed moments of brilliance — hitting some spectacular shots among his 28 winners — but the tall Argentine dictated the pace from the baseline and saved all three break points he faced.

Murray, who beat Del Potro but lost to Federer in three sets, was never broken against Verdasco but struggled with an erratic serve — mixing 18 aces with nine double-faults. He clinched the win when Verdasco missed a forehand wide on the first match point. Murray wasted seven break points spread over three games in the second set, and paid for it in the tiebreaker. □



In this Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers' Shaquille O'Neal sits on the bench in the second quarter in an NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Touched by girl's death, Shaq pays for funeral

FAYETTEVILLE, North Carolina (AP) — Basketball star Shaquille O'Neal paid for the funeral of a 5-year-old North Carolina girl after being moved by national news coverage of the case of Shaniya Davis, who police say was kidnapped and killed. The Cleveland Cavaliers player was touched by the stories he saw and got in touch with the family to see what he could do to help, a spokeswoman for O'Neal said Thursday.

More than 2,000 people attended the girl's funeral Sunday. Her body was found Nov. 16 beside a rural road. Her mother, Antionette Davis, who had reported the child missing six days earlier, is charged with human trafficking and child abuse involving prostitution. Mario McNeill is charged with murder, rape and kidnapping in the case.

"I was sitting at home watching it on the news and the story brought a tear to my eye," O'Neal told The Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper.

Corey Breece, of Rogers and Breece Funeral Home, which handled the service, declined to tell the Fayetteville Observer newspaper how much it cost but added that a child's funeral "averages around \$4,500."

A man who answered the phone at the funeral home Thursday told the AP that only the owner could comment and that he was away. □

Romo, Austin send Cowboys past Raiders 24-7

By JAIME ARON,
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — Miles Austin couldn't stop smiling, soaking up the cheers as he stared at himself on the giant video screens over the field. Then Tony Romo really soaked him, splashing a cup of water in his face.

All part of the fun for the Dallas Cowboys in their Thanksgiving rout of the Oakland Raiders.

Romo snapped the Cowboys from their offensive slumber by leading them to a season-high 494 yards, with Austin delivering 145 yards and a touchdown, sending the Cowboys to a 24-7 victory over the Raiders on Thursday.

By winning for the sixth time in seven games, Dallas (8-3) is guaranteed of going into the final month of the season atop the NFC East.

Now comes the real challenge: Staying there. The Cowboys are 5-10 in games after Thanksgiving since Romo became the starting quarterback in 2006.

Oakland (3-8) and its new starting quarterback, Bruce Gradkowski, were coming off a victory over division-leading Cincinnati just a few days before, but couldn't even cross midfield in the first half. The Raiders' lone highlight was top draft pick Darrius Heyward-Bey making the first touchdown catch of his career.

Dallas' defense continued its strong play, with linebacker Anthony Spencer coming up with his first two sacks of the season. It was especially sweet for him because his predecessor, Greg Ellis, was watching from the Oakland sideline.

Ellis, who was cut to make room for Spencer in the starting lineup, made a few tackles early but didn't play much after that, likely because of a lingering knee injury.

The Cowboys were coming off two straight lousy outings on offense, and had more to worry about with Romo nursing a sore back and Jason Witten questionable because of a sprained left foot.

But Romo went 18 of 29 for 309 yards with two touchdown passes and no turnovers. Witten not only made his 102nd straight start, he caught five passes for 107 yards, his most since last Thanksgiving.

Still, the Cowboys have reason for concern going into the final month. They continued to struggle on third downs (converting only four of 12) and had trouble turning big plays into points.

They had four plays of at least 40 yards in the first half, but led only 17-0. The scores came on a 46-yard run by Felix Jones, a 9-yard catch by Austin and a field goal by Nick Folk. Folk also



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Miles Austin (19) celebrates following his touchdown in the first half of an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders, Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, in Arlington, Texas. The Cowboys won 24-7.

Associated Press

missed a field goal — for the third straight game.

The Cowboys also got a 6-yard touchdown catch by Roy Williams in the fourth quarter. Williams celebrated by flashing the Hook 'em Horns sign, a sign of support for his alma mater hours before they faced their rivals from Texas A&M.

Jones ran for 68 yards, Tashard Choice had 67 (with 66 coming on one play in Dallas' version of the wildcat) and Marion Barber had 61. Gradkowski was 18 of 35 for 200 yards and the touchdown pass to Heyward-Bey. Justin Fargas ran for 63 yards, but only 11 came over the final three quarters.

Oakland's powerful punter Shane Lechler failed in his bid to hit the overhead video board, in warmups or in his nine tries during the game.

This was the first time the Cowboys beat the Raiders at home. Oakland had been 3-0. □

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**NBA Roundup****Nuggets hand Wolves 14th straight loss, 124-111**

Minnesota Timberwolves' Nathan Jawai, left, of Australia, Al Jefferson, center, Ryan Hollins, second from right, Jonny Flynn, right, sit on the bench in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2009, in Minneapolis. The Timberwolves set a record with their worst start in their 124-111 loss to the Denver Nuggets. They are 1-14.

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 22 points and Nene had 17 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Denver Nuggets handed the Minnesota Timberwolves their 14th straight loss with a 124-111 victory on Wednesday.

The Timberwolves have not won since an opening night victory over New Jersey.

Their 1-14 mark is the worst 15-game start in team history. Corey Brewer had the first double-double of his career with a career-high 22 points and 13 rebounds. Jonny Flynn scored 20 points for the Wolves, who cut the lead to eight points in the fourth before fading to yet another loss.

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, LeBron James scored 12 of his 34 points in the first quarter to help Cleveland build a cushion it used to cruise to a win over Detroit.

James' strong start gave the Cavs a nine-point lead to start the second quarter. Reserve Daniel Gibson and Mo Williams combined to score 18 points in the second quarter to put them ahead by 18 at halftime.

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At Indianapolis, Troy Murphy had 18 points and 11 rebounds as Indiana beat the Los Angeles Clippers to snap a four-game losing streak.

Dahntay Jones scored 18 and Brandon Rush added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers. Baron Davis had 25 points and Marcus Camby added 15 points and 21 rebounds for the Clippers.

At Boston, Rajon Rondo scored six points during a key run early in the fourth quarter and made a shot clock-beating jump shot on the baseline in the closing seconds as Boston overcame poor 3-point shooting to beat Philadelphia. Paul Pierce led Boston with 27 points, including a game-tying 3-pointer early in the 14-3 spurt. Kevin Garnett had 19 points and Ray Allen 18. Rondo finished with 10 points and seven assists.

Andre Iguodala paced the undermanned 76ers with 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. Jason Kapono had a season-high 20 points and Willie Green added 18.

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace broke out of his shooting slump with 31 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to help Charlotte to the most lopsided victory in team history, over Toronto. Stephen Jackson added 23 points for Charlotte, which dominated the listless Raptors. The sixth-year Bobcats' previous biggest win was a

32-point rout of Indiana on Nov. 16, 2005.

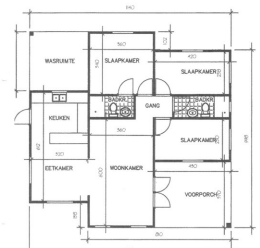
Chris Bosh had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Andrea Bargnani scored 15 for the Raptors. At Orlando, Florida, Michael Beasley dunked a missed shot by Dwyane Wade with 1.6 seconds remaining to lift Miami to a victory over Orlando.

Wade's jumper was short, and Beasley soared in the air to take the rebound and seal the victory, which didn't come without controversy. Dwight Howard and the Magic bench pleaded for a goaltending call to no avail.

Beasley had 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Wade overcame a slow start to finish with 24 points to help Miami rally from an 11-point deficit.

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 32 points as San Antonio overcame another iron man performance by Monta Ellis in a victory over Golden State.

In other NBA games it was, Indiana 86, L.A. Clippers 73; Charlotte 116, Toronto 81; Boston 113, Philadelphia 110; Miami 99, Orlando 98; New Orleans 102, Milwaukee 99, OT; Cleveland 98, Detroit 88; Denver 124, Minnesota 111; San Antonio 118, Golden State 104; Dallas 130, Houston 99; Phoenix 126, Memphis 111; Sacramento 111, New York 97; and Portland 93, New Jersey 83.

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Zelaya no puede ser restituido, asegura la Corte Suprema de Justicia

TEGUCIGALPA (EFE).- La Corte Suprema de Justicia (CSJ) de Honduras ratificó que el depuesto presidente, Manuel Zelaya, no puede ser restituido en su cargo si no se somete a los juicios que tiene pendientes, informó ayer una fuente de ese órgano.

En la opinión que enviará esta semana al Congreso Nacional, que el 2 de diciembre debatirá si se restituye o no a Zelaya en la Presidencia, la CSJ ratifica el criterio que emitió el 21 de agosto pasado en el proceso de consultas del Acuerdo de San José, propuesto por el presidente de Costa Rica, Óscar Arias, en su calidad de mediador en la crisis de Honduras. Una fuente de la CSJ explicó a Efe que la opinión que se enviará al Parlamento, y que ratifica la emitida en agosto, fue aprobada anoche por 14 de los 15 magistrados, pero no precisó quién votó en contra ni el porqué.

El tribunal supremo indicó en agosto, en relación al regreso de Zelaya al poder, que “existen acciones penales presentadas (contra él) por la Fiscalía General de la República”, por lo que, “mientras no existan otras disposiciones legales aplicables, no puede eludirse



El depuesto presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya (i), conversa con su madre, Hortensia Rosales (d), este miércoles 25 de noviembre de 2009 en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa. Zelaya afirmó que si el Congreso hondureño lo restituye en el poder unilateralmente, sin un acuerdo previo, sería un acto ‘ilegal’ por parte del poder Legislativo y explicó que esta institución sólo podría decidir ‘alguna cosa’ en caso de consolidarse el acuerdo Tegucigalpa-San José. EFE/STR

que tendría que someterse a los procedimientos establecidos en la legislación procesal penal”.

Zelaya tiene una orden de captura por varios delitos relacionados con una consulta popular que pretendía celebrar

para promover una Asamblea Constituyente el 28 de junio, el mismo día en que los militares lo arrestaron y lo expulsaron del país, y en que el Parlamento designó a Roberto Micheletti en su lugar.

Según el régimen de facto,

los militares derrocaron a Zelaya en cumplimiento de ese mandato judicial derivado del proceso incoado por el Ministerio Público contra él por promover la consulta, que había sido declarada ilegal por varios órganos del Estado.

Ya derrocado Zelaya, un tribunal de justicia le libró otra orden de captura, en este caso, según el Ministerio Público, por la emisión ilegal de un decreto para la contratación de publicidad.

Con la opinión de la CSJ, el Congreso Nacional contará ya con las cuatro que solicitó a sendos órganos del Estado para fundamentar su debate, aunque ha aclarado que estos informes no son vinculantes y que la decisión sobre Zelaya sólo dependerá de los diputados.

Ya entregaron sus opiniones el Ministerio Público, la Procuraduría General de la República y el Comisionado Nacional de los Derechos Humanos, Ramón Custodio.

El derrocado mandatario permanece desde el 21 de septiembre pasado en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa tras volver al país clandestinamente.

El próximo domingo en Honduras se celebrarán elecciones para elegir al próximo presidente del país, pero la mayoría de países han anunciado que no reconocerán su validez a menos que se celebren con Zelaya de nuevo en la Presidencia. □

Uso de velo en hospital iraní causa polémica en Bolivia

LA PAZ (AP) - El uso de un velo por parte del personal femenino en un hospital financiado por Irán abrió una polémica tras la reciente visita a La Paz del presidente Mahmud Ahmadineyad, de Irán.

Algunos líderes de la oposición calificaron de sometimiento a las costumbres de otro país y han censurado el que el personal femenino haya aparecido con velo durante la inauguración el martes del Hospital República Islámica de Irán.

Pero la directora del centro, Paola Antezana, explicó a medios locales que el uso del uniforme fue por respeto a la cultura islámica en la inauguración del centro médico que fue financiado y equipado por Irán en el marco de la ayuda al gobierno de Evo Morales.

Funcionarios de la embajada de Irán en La Paz indicaron que no se trata específicamente

del velo islámico sino del uniforme oficial de la Media Luna Roja que tendrá a su cargo el manejo administrativo del centro.

El ministro de Salud, Ramiro Tapia, aclaró el jueves que el gobierno boliviano aplicará sus propias normas cuando el hospital sea entregado oficialmente, lo cual ocurrirá a principios de diciembre.

Se trata de un hospital recién construido que atenderá con varias especialidades a gente pobre de la vecina ciudad de El Alto. Tiene siete plantas y su construcción más equipamiento costó 1,2 millones de dólares donados por Irán.

Fue inaugurado mediante teleconferencia por Ahmadineyad que el martes cumplió una visita de pocas horas a Bolivia. Se trata del primero de tres hospitales que Irán ha dicho que construirá gratuitamente en este país. □

Casi 10.000 evacuados y tres muertos por inundaciones Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - Inundaciones provocadas por fuertes lluvias y tormentas en el noreste de Argentina forzaron la evacuación de casi 10.000 personas y causaron la muerte de otras tres, dijeron el jueves autoridades policiales y de defensa civil.

Un fuerte temporal azotó en los últimos días a zonas cercanas a los ríos Uruguay y Paraná, cuyas crecidas provocaron amplias inundaciones en las provincias de Chaco, Entre Ríos y Corrientes, así como en otras regiones del país sudamericano.

La policía confirmó que hasta el momento han fallecido tres personas. En la provincia de Entre Ríos, una de las más afectadas por las lluvias, las aguas del río Uruguay bajaban lentamente.

“Si bien estamos en una emergencia, está controlada (...) en este momento tenemos más o menos 6.000 personas afectadas por esta crisis”, dijo a Reuters Roberto Destri, director de la defensa civil de Entre Ríos.

La ciudad de Concordia, fronteriza a Uruguay, país que también estaba golpeado por las inundaciones, era la más afectada con cerca de 5.000 evacuados.

El Servicio Meteorológico Nacional pronosticó “un lento mejoramiento de las condiciones hacia la tarde o noche del jueves”, según publicó en su página de internet. □

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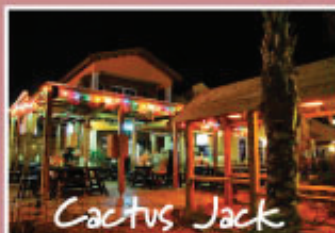


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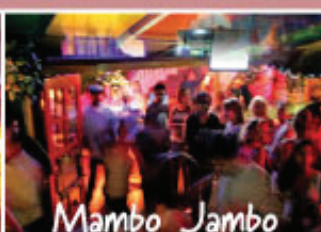
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